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LAND PLANNING AND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
Of the Public Domain Lands
in the State of Kansas

Part I - Within the Arkansas River Drainage

Part II- Within the Missouri River Drainage

Region III
Billings, Montana
July, 1950
(FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY)

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This report was compiled as part of the program of the Department of the Interior for the development of the resources of the Missouri River Basin.

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PREFACE

This is a summary report on the remaining unappropriated, unreserved public domain lands in the State of Kansas, as they existed on July 1, 1950. The report describes these remaining public lands as to their physical characteristics and their present economic suitability.

The purpose of this study and report is to promote the greatest service and usefulness of these remaining public lands which are consistent with the best long range public interest.

The study was conducted by the Division of Land Planning of the Bureau of Land Management, Region III, as a feature of the Interior Department's Resource Development Program for the Missouri River Basin and the Arkansas White and Red River Basin.

The detail studies necessary to this report were under the direction of J. Elliott Hall, Land Economist; the field work was done by E. D. Hunter, Conservationist; and the supervision of the study in all its aspects was under the Regional Chief of Land Planning Division, R. D. Nielson.

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to describe the public domain lands in the State of Kansas under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. For the purpose of this report, the lands have been separated into the Missouri River Basin and Arkansas River Basin (including Cimarron River Basin) drainages. The public lands in the Missouri River Basin in the State of Kansas were included in an earlier report by this Bureau, namely Kansas River Drainage Basin, but changes in the land status in the interim make it advisable to now report upon all the public domain lands in the entire state.

The public domain lands remaining in the State of Kansas are comprised of small and isolated parcels and therefore, it was considered expedient to classify all of such lands in order that the necessary action could be taken toward placing these lands under the proper ownership and management. In view of the very small acreage and nature of the public domain lands, our program will be one of disposition of lands to other Federal, state, municipal, or private interests. Nevertheless, the information contained herein will likely be useful to the Interior Department's Southwest Field Committee in its plans for the development and utilization of the resources of the Southwest. The report covering the public lands in the Missouri River Basin in Kansas has already been submitted to Missouri River Basin Field Committee.

It is contemplated that after the Southwest Field Committee has considered the interests of Federal agencies as may relate to the use of these remaining tracts of public lands in this portion of Kansas, the matter of further disposition and management of the remaining lands will then be referred to the State of Kansas to determine what interest they may have; and, finally, if the lands are not needed in connection with any public program, they will be offered into public sale.

In the study, only the remaining unappropriated, unreserved public domain lands were included. The summary description of each of the legal subdivisions is shown in the appended tabulation of the report. A complete and detailed report of each tract is on file in the Regional Office of the Bureau of Land Management in Billings, Montana.

The public lands in the State of Kansas under the jurisdiction of this Bureau comprise a very small percentage of the total land area and have little effect upon area economy. The summary description of each legal subdivision is shown in the attached table and a complete detailed classification report of each tract is on file in the Regional Office of the Bureau of Land Management in Billings, Montana. There is also included as a part of this report a map of the State of Kansas, showing the approximate location of the public domain land by counties.

PART I

PUBLIC DOMAIN LANDS WITHIN THE ARKANSAS RIVER DRAINAGE IN THE STATE OF KANSAS

The public domain lands within the Arkansas River Drainage Basin in the State of Kansas comprise a total of only 2,260 acres. The land lies in thirty-one separate parcels and within thirteen different counties. The attached table shows the location, classification and other pertinent data relating to each tract. The accompanying map shows the approximate location of the public land by counties. Substantially all of the public land is located in the extreme southwestern portion of the state within the drainage area of the Cimarron River, one of the largest tributaries of the Arkansas River. The largest single tract of public land in the area comprises 400 acres and the smallest tract in the drainage area is 0.38 acres. Over one-half of the tracts of public land are forty acres or less in size.

Slightly over eighty-three percent of the public domain land is primarily valuable and suitable for grazing purposes. Their rough topography or sandy soils precludes sustained cultivation. Prairie type grasses and various species of the mid-grass types occur in the western portion of the basin where the public lands are located. Buffalo grass is most prevalent and is usually associated with western wheat grass, grama grass and needle grass. Some of the areas are characterized by sand hills with a vegetative cover of sand sage, sand grass and sand dropseed. The carrying capacity of these grazing lands ranges from one acre per animal unit month to sixteen acres per animal unit month, but

most of the land has a carrying capacity of about three acres per animal unit month. The lands lie in small and widely-scattered parcels and are used in connection with adjacent farm and ranch units.

About 280 acres of the public land are within intermittent lakes or within the river channel of the Cimarron River. These lands have little value except for possible recreation or wildlife use. Only forty-eight acres of public land in the basin, situated in two separate tracts, are suitable for crop production. Practically all crop production in the area is carried on under dry farming practices.

The widely scattered nature of the remaining public domain and its very limited public utility makes its administration by the Bureau of Land Management very impractical. Accordingly, it is proposed that all of these tracts of public land be transferred to other Federal or state agencies for administration in connection with existing public programs, or pass to private ownership.

As shown on the table which is included as an appendage to this report, twenty-six of the thirty-one parcels of public domain land are recommended for disposition to private interests under the Public Sale Law. Under the Public Sale Law, adjoining landowners are given a preference right to purchase, and thereby the sale of such lands is not likely to disturb the local economy or otherwise be detrimental to the public interests.

One of the tracts of public land comprising two hundred acres specified under the "Proposed Management" column as "Federal" lies adjacent to the Morton County Land Utilization Project of the Soil Conservation Service, and is primarily valuable and suitable for use and

administration in connection with such project. Steps are presently being taken to transfer jurisdiction of these lands to the Soil Conservation Service, who have indicated a desire to acquire the lands. One tract of public land comprising only 0.38 acres adjoins the Arkansas river and may be needed in connection with flood control projects. The remaining two parcels of land within the area are within intermittent lakes or adjoin the Cimarron River. These lands have limited value except for possible recreational and wildlife uses. It may be desirable and in the best public interest, that these three tracts be acquired by the state for administration and management.

PART II

PUBLIC DOMAIN LANDS IN THE MISSOURI RIVER DRAINAGE IN THE STATE OF KANSAS

The public lands within the Missouri River Basin Drainage in the State of Kansas comprise a total of only 277 acres. The land lies in eight separate parcels and within six different counties. The location by legal description and county, and other pertinent data of each tract is shown in the attached table. In view of the small acreage and scattered nature of the lands, continued administration and management by this Bureau is impracticable.

Of the 277 acres of public land in the area, 274 acres lie in five separate tracts, and have been classified as primarily valuable and suitable for grazing purposes. Two separate tracts, comprising 1.70 acres, have been classified as primarily suitable for flood control, and the remaining tract of slightly less than one acre has been classified as principally suitable for farming. Except for the two tracts of land valuable for flood control and which will be retained in public ownership, it is planned that the remaining lands will be disposed of to private interests.

The public lands in the Missouri River Basin in the State of Kansas were included in an earlier report by this Bureau, and the Missouri River Basin Field Committee has been furnished copies. The Southwest Field Committee will be furnished copies of this report to ascertain the interests of Federal agencies as may relate to the public lands in the Arkansas River Basin. After all existing and proposed

programs of Federal agencies have been considered, the matter of further disposition and management of the public lands will then be referred to the State of Kansas to determine their programs that may involve such lands. Finally, those public lands not needed in connection with any public program will be offered into public sale. The public lands in themselves are too small and widely scattered to constitute an economic farm or grazing unit, but the public sale law permits preference to adjoining owners, and thereby it is likely that these small tracts of public lands will be incorporated with existing units.

A complete, detailed classification of each individual tract of public domain land described in this report has been made and parties interested in acquiring any of these lands may obtain additional information by writing the Bureau of Land Management, Region III, Billings, Montana.

R. D. Nielson, Regional Chief,
Division of Land Planning

Approved:

Albin D. Molohon,
Regional Administrator.

July 31, 1950

Description, Classification and Appraisal of Public Domain Lands
in the Arkansas River and Missouri River Drainage Areas in Kansas by Counties - 1950 1/

County	Twp.	Range	Sec.	Subdivision	Acres	General Land Character	Present Land-Use	Land Capability Classification	Principal Suitability	Proposed Management	Total Appraised Value (Dollars)
ARKANSAS RIVER DRAINAGE:											
Barber	33 S.	15 W.	8	SE¼SE¼	40.00	Rolling to steep	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	400.00
Clark	32 S.	23 W.	18	NE¼NE¼	40.00	Rolling to rough	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	200.00
		24 W.	11 §	NW¼SW¼ §	80.00	Rough and hilly	Grazing	VII	Grazing	Private	460.00
			23 §	SW¼SW¼ §							
	35 S.	25 W.	5	Lot 2	18.30	Level to gently sloping	Farming/Grazing	8.3-IV/10-III	Farming/Grazing	Private	404.00
Comanche	31 S.	16 W.	1	Lot 4	39.80	Rolling to steep	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	200.00
	34 S.	16 W.	8	SE¼NW¼, NW¼SW¼	80.00	Rolling to steep	Grazing	20-VI/60-VII	Grazing	Private	400.00
		17 W.	11	SE¼SE¼	40.00	Level to slightly rolling	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	200.00
Cowley	34 S.	3 E.	7	Lot 1	0.38	Level	Grazing	III	Flood Control	Federal	8.00
Edwards	26 S.	20 W.	32	SW¼SE¼	40.00	Rolling	Grazing	VII	Grazing	Private	50.00
Hamilton	24 S.	40 W.	20	Lot 1	11.00	Level	Grazing	VI	Grazing/Limited Wildlife	Private	55.00
	25 S.	43 W.	9	S½ of Lot 1	20.76	Level to gently rolling	Farming	III	Farming	Private	415.00
Kearney	24 S.	38 W.	28	SE¼NW¼	40.00	Rolling to moderately steep	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	200.00
	25 S.	37 W.	30	Lots 3, 4, S½NE¼, SE¼, N½SW¼	400.30	Rolling to moderately steep sand hills	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	1,200.00
Lane	19 S.	27 W.	2	Lot 2	40.08	Rolling to moderately steep	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	200.00
Meade	31 S.	26 W.	25	Lots 5 and 6	17.44	Rolling	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	68.00
	33 S.	28 W.	28	SW¼SW¼	40.00	Rolling to rough	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	200.00
	34 S.	26 W.	1	Lots 5 and 6 §							
			12	Lots 5 and 6 §							
			13	Lots 5 and 6 §	16.52	Level	Farming/Grazing	13.52-VI/3.0-VII	Farming/Grazing	Private	92.00
			24	Lots 5 and 6 §							
			25	Lots 5 and 6 §							
		30 W.	19	Lot 3	38.78	Rolling to moderately steep	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	156.00
Morton	34 S.	43 W.	8	SE¼SW¼ §							
			13	SE¼NW¼ §	200.00	Rolling sand hills	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Federal 2/	280.00
			14	SW¼SE¼, E½SW¼ §							
Scott	20 S.	31 W.	20	NE¼, N½SW¼	240.00	Major part in intermittent lake	Wildlife	VIII	Wildlife	State	480.00
Seward	31 S.	34 W.	21	NE¼NW¼	40.00	Within and adjoining Cimarron River	Grazing	16-VI/24-VIII	Grazing/Wildlife	State	50.00
	32 S.	33 W.	19	Lot 3	37.53	Sand hills	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	150.00
		34 W.	25	W½NE¼, E½NW¼, NW¼SE¼	200.00	Sand hills	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	800.00
	33 S.	31 W.	32	NE¼NW¼	40.00	Rough and broken	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	160.00
	35 S.	31 W.	9	W½NE¼	80.00	Sand hills	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	400.00
Stevens	31 S.	38 W.	10	SE¼SW¼ §							
			15	W½NE¼ §	200.00	Sand hills	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	400.00
			21	SW¼NE¼, NW¼SE¼ §							
	32 S.	38 W.	6	Lot 1, SE¼NE¼	81.49	Sand hills	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	162.00
Total Acres (carried forward)					2,122.38						

1/Compiled from the records of the Bureau of Land Management, Region III, Billings, Montana - as of July 20, 1950.
2/Steps being taken to transfer jurisdiction of lands to Soil Conservation Service.

Description, Classification and Appraisal of Public Domain Lands
in the Arkansas River and Missouri River Drainage Areas in Kansas by Counties -- 1950 (continued)

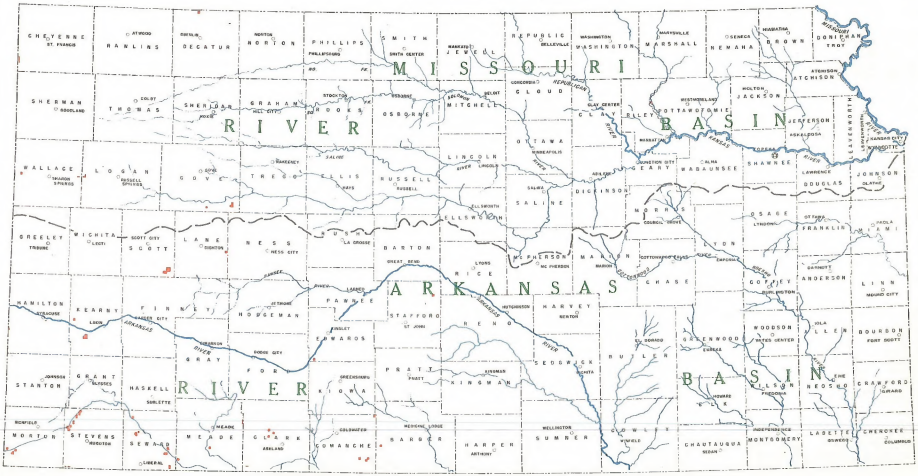
County	Twp.	Range	Sec.	Subdivision	Acres	General Land Character	Present Land-Use	Land Capability Classification	Principal Suitability	Proposed Management	Total Appraised Value (Dollars)
ARKANSAS RIVER DRAINAGE: (continued)											
Total acres (brought forward)					2,122.38						
Stevens (cont)	32 S.	39 W.	13	NW¼SE¼	40.00	Sand hills	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	80.00
			23	NW¼SW¼, SW¼SE¼	80.00	Sand hills	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Federal 2/	160.00
	35 S.	39 W.	23	Lot 2	8.80	Level to rolling	Farming	III	Farming	Private	88.00
			24	Lots 1 and 2	8.80	Level to rolling	Farming	III	Farming	Private	88.00
Total Acres -- Arkansas River Drainage					2,259.98						
MISSOURI RIVER DRAINAGE:											
Cheyenne	5 S.	42 W.	5	Lots 1 and 2	9.10	Level to rolling	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	45.00
Decatur	1 S.	29 W.	1	SW¼SE¼	40.00	Rolling to hilly	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	160.00
Gove	15 S.	26 W.	20	NE¼SE¼	40						
			21	W½NW¼, NW¼SW¼	160.00	Rough and broken	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	560.00
		28 W.	31	NW¼NE¼	40.00	Rough and broken	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	160.00
Logan	13 S.	37 W.	30	Lot 9	40						
			31	Lots 7 and 8	25.03	Rolling	Grazing	VI	Grazing	Private	188.00
Pottawatomie	7 S.	6 E.	26	Lot 5	.44	Within Blue River	Not used	VIII	Flood Control	Federal	-- --
			35	Lot 1	.80	Level river bottom	Not used	III	Farming	Private	10.00
Riley	6 S.	7 E.	33	Lot 2	1.26	River bottom	Not used	VIII	Flood Control	Federal	13.00
Total Acres -- Missouri River Drainage					276.63						
Total Acres -- Arkansas River and Missouri River Drainages					2,536.61						

STATE MAP OF KANSAS

SHOWING

PUBLIC DOMAIN IN MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS RIVER BASINS

JULY, 1950



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